



## Weekly Drought Brief Monday, July 7, 2014

### CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Fire Activity:** CAL FIRE has responded to 2,869 wildfires across the state since January 1, burning 16,488 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 1,992, but firefighters have been able to keep the acres burned this year close to the annual average of 17,486 acres. CAL FIRE responded to nearly 200 new wildfires last week, including the 4,300 acre Butts Fire in Napa County.

**Reservoir Levels (% capacity)** [Reservoir Levels](#) as of June 26 remain low, including: Don Pedro 49%; Exchequer 26%; Folsom Lake 47%; Lake Oroville 42%; Millerton Lake 62%; New Melones 29%; Pine Flat 33%; San Luis 31%; Shasta 40%; and Trinity Lake 43%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

**Vulnerable Water Systems:** The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to several communities facing drinking water shortages, and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine new support is needed. Over \$8.5 million has been identified for specific emergency drinking water projects to date, out of \$15 million appropriated in March for this purpose. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

**Recent precipitation:** No significant rain fell over the last week and no rain is expected soon.

### KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **Water Board considers statewide mandatory conservation measures:** The Water Board will publicly release tomorrow (Tuesday, July 8) proposed water conservation requirements to reduce water waste across the state. These proposed emergency regulations include mandatory restrictions on water use, and will be considered by the Water Board on Tuesday, July 15.

Last month, water agencies serving California's cities and towns [provided updates](#) to the Water Board on current water consumption. These updates, combined with a statewide survey of water agencies' conservation actions, have informed the Water Board's proposed emergency water conservation regulations. Also, the Governor's [April Proclamation of Continued Emergency Drought](#) called on residents to limit outdoor irrigation and prevent wasteful water practices, and directed water agencies to prevent water waste.

- **New water curtailments:** The Water Board last week adopted emergency regulations to protect senior water right holders across the state by enabling curtailments to be made for more junior water right holders on real-time basis. These regulations are scheduled to go into effect on July 14. Also last week, curtailment notices were mailed to post-1914 water right holders on the North Fork and main stem of the Eel River, as well as Van Duzen River. Updated information on water curtailments can be found on the Water Board's [curtailment webpage](#).

• **Open Burn Ban in effect across the state:** Open burning is now prohibited on 31 million acres of land across the state, due to a [burn ban that CAL FIRE](#) has directed each of its unit chiefs to implement. This ban on open burning in state responsibility areas (outside of cities and towns) reduces wildfire danger amidst extremely dry conditions.

• **Emergency food aid and rental assistance:** The California Department of Social Services has provided to date over 106,000 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Over 57,500 boxes of food have been picked up by households. By this Friday, an additional 10,800 will be delivered to food banks. Local food banks are targeting this food aid to residents most impacted by the drought.

The non-profit group La Cooperativa has begun distributing \$10 million in short-term, state-funded emergency rental assistance to impacted families and individuals across counties most impacted by the drought.

• **Work crews available to assist with water conservation projects:** The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is making crews available to assist with water efficiency projects through a [new program](#) funded by emergency drought legislation enacted in March.

• **Deadline nearing to apply for \$200 million in drought grants:** Water agencies have until July 21 to submit applications to the State Department of Water Resources for \$200 million [in Integrated Regional Water Management grants](#) that has been expedited by emergency drought legislation passed in March.

• **Timber companies to report water use:** The California Board of Forestry is now requiring that timber companies [report the amount of water](#) they are using for dust control on their job sites. This new regulation responds to drought conditions and very low water supplies in many streams and rivers adjacent to lumber operations.

• **State's emergency drinking water program has new leader:** The state's drinking water program is now part of the State Water Resources Control Board, part of a planned shift for the program from the state's Health and Human Services Agency at the start of the new budget year on July 1. The Water Board [named Cindy Forbes](#) to lead the Water Board's new Division of Drinking Water. Forbes is a 30- year veteran of the state's drinking water program, and was formerly the program's Southern California Branch Division Chief.

• **Water saving tips promoted across the state:** The state's newly improved water conservation website, [SaveOurWater.com](#), is promoting the "Don't Waste Summer" campaign. This campaign provides a new conservation tip each day for the 100 days of summer. Supporters can follow and share Save Our Water's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds for this public awareness campaign.

• **Sonora is site of upcoming Drought Task Force meeting:** Leaders of the Governor's Drought Task force will travel to Sonora (Tuolumne County) on Friday (July 11) to meet with local leaders and agencies to coordinate drought response. This is the seventh regional meeting of the taskforce, following meetings in Sacramento, Ukiah, Merced, Santa Cruz, Tulare and Montague.

• **Drought response funding moves forward:** \$687 million in state drought funding that was appropriated in March through emergency legislation continues to advance toward meeting critical needs. Over \$61 million of this funding addresses emergency water needs, food aid and housing assistance to drought-impacted communities. Nearly \$21 million of those funds are already in communities providing assistance and additional funds are being readied as drought impacts worsen. Nearly \$625 million of the emergency funds appropriated in March came from sources dedicated to capital improvements to water systems. Since March, state agencies have expedited grant approvals, getting over \$21 million immediately allocated to grantees that were pre-approved for certain projects. As planned in March, the next \$200 million of expedited capital funding will be awarded this fall, with the remaining \$250 million granted by mid next-year. State government has also appropriated tens of millions in funding to CAL FIRE over its typical budget to enable staffing-up fire crews much earlier this fire season.

• **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

### **Local Government**

• **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 45 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:

- o **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Shasta, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba, and Mariposa.
- o **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County, City of Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County, City of Montague-Siskiyou County, City of Live Oak-Sutter County, and San Juan Bautista.
- o **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.
- o **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, Montecito Water District, Goleta Water District, Tuolumne Utilities District, Nevada Irrigation District.

• **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.

• **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 26 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Napa. The Hoopa Tribe has also established a drought task force.

## **DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse**

State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)

Local Government [Drought Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)

California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)

California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)

California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)

California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)

California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)

California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)

California State Water Project, [Information](#)

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for current conditions throughout the region

[U.S. Drought Portal](#), National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

National Weather Service [Climate Predictor Center](#)

USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)

USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)

Small Business Administration Disaster Support: [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)